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58. (Twice Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:

administering to skin a composition comprising a biguanide polymer and a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a powder, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol.

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60. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer [comprises] ^{open} poly(hexamethylenebiguanide), poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) gluconate, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) stearate, or a derivative thereof.

61. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the composition further comprises a metallic material.

62. (Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the metallic material is silver or a silver compound.

63. (Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the metallic material is silver nitrate.

64. (Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the metallic material is silver iodide.

65. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

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68. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer comprises a chemical group capable of forming a covalent bond.

Please add the following new claims:

B⁴ 89. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin a composition comprising (i) an organic polycationic polymer; (ii) a
metallic material; and (iii) a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a
powder, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol.

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C₁ 90. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin a composition comprising, in a dermal antiseptic formulation, a
biguanide polymer,
wherein the dermal antiseptic formulation is selected from the group consisting of
surgical scrubs, pre-operative skin preparations, healthcare personnel handwashes, antiseptic
handwashes, antimicrobial soaps, antimicrobial creams, antimicrobial hand sanitizers,
antimicrobial deodorants, antimicrobial lotions, and antimicrobial gels.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a
substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

92. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin a composition comprising, in a dermal antiseptic formulation, an
organic polycationic polymer and a metallic material,
wherein the dermal antiseptic formulation is selected from the group consisting of
surgical scrubs, pre-operative skin preparations, healthcare personnel handwashes, antiseptic
handwashes, antimicrobial soaps, antimicrobial creams, antimicrobial hand sanitizers,
antimicrobial deodorants, antimicrobial lotions, and antimicrobial gels.

93. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:

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administering to skin a composition comprising a biguanide polymer and a skin-compatible component selected from the group consisting of emollients, thickeners, humectants, skin moisturizing agents, and surfactants.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

95. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin a composition comprising (i) an organic polycationic polymer; (ii) a metallic material; and (iii) a skin-compatible component selected from the group consisting of emollients, thickeners, humectants, skin moisturizing agents, and surfactants.

96. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin, by spreading or immersion, a composition comprising a biguanide polymer.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

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98. A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the step of:
administering to skin, by spreading or immersion, a composition comprising an organic polycationic polymer and a metallic material.
